



# In Everything: A Two-Part Study on Prayer

by Jason Glaskey

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

## Part Two

### Opening Activity

As youth are gathering for Bible Study, ask them to write on an index card or slip of paper something that they are thankful for. Ask them to fold the papers and put them in a bowl or a hat. No one should put their name on the papers. After your opening prayer, pass the hat and have a youth draw out one of the papers and read it. The rest of the group should try to guess who wrote the thankful thought.

### Background

From the previous study, we remember that Paul had a “dark background” and was changed when he met the risen Jesus face-to-face. After that experience, Paul became one of the greatest missionaries and evangelists in the Bible.

Throughout Paul’s ministry he was arrested, harassed, beaten, and imprisoned (2 Cor. 11:23-30). While being transported as a prisoner, he was even shipwrecked! (Acts 27) Scholars believe that several years of Paul’s life were spent in prison for Jesus’ sake, and that at least four of his letters, or epistles, were written from prison. Philippians is one of these “prison letters” from Paul.

Paul’s faith in God is strong. Even from prison he says, “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:12-13) In today’s study, we will point to God as the one who provides strength to make it through tough times. Jesus gives us a reason to be content and thankful in all circumstances.

### Studying the Word

Philippians 4:6 says “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Are you thankful “in everything”? Is it possible for someone to be thankful to God “in everything”? Why or why not?

#### *Why Be Thankful*

Read Psalm 136:1. Why should we be thankful? Why is it good that “God is good”?

Read Colossians 1:12-14. What has God done that we should be thankful for? What gift have you been given?

Take a look at the verse below:

“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph 5:19-20)

What has Jesus done that makes giving thanks in His Name possible?

Read Hebrews 12:28. What is this “unshakable kingdom” that the verse reminds us to be thankful for? (See also v.22)

Read Romans 8:28. Since God is good, He’s always working for good. What good has come from the difficult situations in your life or from someone you know?

### *Don’t Forget “Please” and “Thank You”*

Hopefully, the people who raised you taught you to say “please” and “thank you” when dealing with other people. Why is it important to remember our “please” and “thank you”?

Often times, our prayers to God end up being “gimme” prayers. God gimme this... God gimme that... God do this... God do that... Is this a healthy and proper way to pray? Why or why not?

What is missing from a “gimme” kind of prayer? (See 1 Thess 5:17-18.)

While Jesus commands us to ask God for whatever we need, we should remember that it is very important how we ask it. Read the following verses, and answer the question, “How should we pray?”

John 16:23

Luke 11:13

1 John 5:14

Matthew 21:22

Luke 22:42

Psalms 136:1

James 1:6-7

Matthew 8:2

### **Take Action**

Divide a white board into two columns. Make a list of prayer concerns in the right-hand column. After your group has finished writing about prayer needs, make a list of things you are thankful for in the left-hand column. Try to make the “Thankful” and “Needs” columns equal.

Close your time together praying prayers of thanks as you share your needs with God.